Implementation of BIFR proposals

4420. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider empowering BIFR to monitor the implementation of BIFR proposals themselves for reviving sick industries to obviate misuse of funds by promoters; and

(b) if not, the steps taken to monitor the implementation of BIFR proposals through promoters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Sub-section 12 of Section 18 of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 as amended in February 1994, empowers the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to monitor implementation of sanctioned schemes.

(b) Does not arise.

Excise Duty on concrete building blocks

4421. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while light weight (solid or hollow) concrete building blocks are exempt from levy of excise duty, the normal weight blocks, slabs, lintels and concrete beams and stairs that go into construction of prefabricated buildings are subject to excise duty ad-valorem;

(b) if so, what is the reason and rationale for such a distinction;

(c) what is the estimated annual earning by way of excise-duty levied on these items; and

(d) whether any representations for exempting the latter category of material used in prefab-buildings on the lines of the former category of items, from Chambers of Housing Industry or Federation of such industries or from Members of Parliament, if so, what decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Light weight (solid or hollow) concrete building blocks are exempt from excise duty. Though, normal weight blocks, slabs, lintels and concrete beams and stairs that go into the construction of prefabricated buildings attract 10 percent excise duty, the effective duty can be considered as nil since the duty paid on such items is available as Modvat credit to the manufacturers of prefabricated buildings. Further, such items are also exempt from excise duty when they are manufactured at the site of connection. Therefore, in reality here is parity of tax treatment for such light weight blocks and normal weight blocks etc., when they are either used for construction of dutiable prefabricated building or are manufactured at site. Light weight (solid or hollow) blocks were exempted in order to encourage the use of new materials in construction activities, which consume lesser cement.

(c) Information in respect of excise duty levied on normal weight blocks, slabs, lintels and concrete beams and stairs going into the construction of prefabricated buildings is not separately maintained. Information is available only for entire sub-heading No. 6807 which includes a large number of goods including these items. Total revenue realised from sub-heading No. 6807 for 1993-94 is provisionally placed at Rs. 129 crores.

(d) Government have received representations for exempting such items. It has not, however, been found possible to exempt such products from excise duty. For small

scale units manufacturing concrete building blocks, exemption/concession is available under the general scheme of exemption/concession for small scale units.

Penalty imposed on banks involved in security scam

4422. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, based on the investigations made over the past two years into the role played by about 20 banks including foreign banks in the securities scam, Government have imposed fines on different foreign and other banks in proportion to the role played in the scam by different banks;

(b) if so, the details of the fines so imposed and recovered; and

(c) the precise elements and factors taken into consideration while imposing such fines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that after submission of the final Report by the Janakiraman Committee and the Audit reports by the Special Auditors appointed by RBI under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI had examined the manner in which the irregularities committed by banks in securities transactions should be dealt with. After careful consideration and taking into account the legal provisions, RBI decided to impose penalties on the banks which had undertaken operations in Portfolio Management Scheme (PMS) and Ready Forward (RF) transactions in gross violation of RBI instructions. RBI had imposed total penalty of Rs. 145.73 crores on 21 banks including foreign banks and private sector banks for the irregularities in the securities transactions. The entire amount has been received by RBI. RBI have reported that they have also issued a second show cause notice imposing the penalty of Rs. 33.70 lakhs on one foreign banks for violation of instructions of the RBI on PMS. Besides the above penal action RBI had also withdrawn in the case of 37 banks including the above 21 banks the exemption given from maintenance of 10 per cent incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) for lapses in observance of regulatory framework.

जयपुर में दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी के लिए केन्द्र

4423. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव :** क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के रायगढ़ जिले के जशपुर नगर में कम शक्ति के दूरदर्शन एवं आकाशवाणी के रिले केन्द्र स्थापित करने के लिए स्वीकृति दी जा चुकी है ; यदि हां, तो यह स्वीकृति किस तिथि को दी गई और केन्द्र की स्थापना संबंधी कार्य किस तिथि को प्रारंभ किया गया ;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या इस संबंध में कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन है और स्वीकृति दिये जाने के रास्ते में आ रही कठिनाइयों का ब्यौरा क्या है : और

(ग) क्या जशपुर नगर में दूरदर्शन एवं आकाशवाणी के रिले केन्द्र स्थापित करने हेतु जन-प्रतिनिधियों एवं प्रदेश प्रशासन द्वारा भी मांग की गई है ; यदि हां, तो इस पर मंत्रालय की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और इस संबंध में उनके द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है ?